

CLAIMS

1. A method for the preparation of genetically-modified fibroblasts expressing a muscle lineage commitment gene, which comprises:

5    a) ex-vivo transduction of fibroblasts with a therapeutic gene or a gene capable of correcting a gene defect;

b) transient expression of the muscle lineage commitment gene in fibroblasts transduced as at point (a), through transformation of the cells with a high-efficiency DNA transfer method, wherein the muscle

10    lineage commitment gene is under the control of a strong promoter.

*Sub B 1*

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutical gene is the dystrophin gene.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the high-efficiency DNA transfer method is a viral vector.

*Sub B 2*

15. A method according to claim 3, wherein said viral vector is selected from baculovirus, adeno-related viruses, adeno-virus.

16. A method according to claim 3, wherein said vector is an adenovirus.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the muscle lineage commitment gene is selected from MyoD, Myf-5, MRF4 and myogenin.

20. 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said gene is MyoD.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the muscle lineage commitment gene is under the control of a viral promoter.

9. Genetically-modified fibroblasts obtainable by the method of claims 1\

Q 8.

25. 10. Fibroblasts according to claim 9, wherein the muscle lineage commitment gene is MyoD.

*Amend C17*